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age man can understand the intricacies of Banking, of Currency Bills, of Taxation, as well as the man whose life has been spent in the practical consideration of these things? Does he believe the average man, with good intentions, is really the fitting representative of our civilization when we are called upon to arrange delicate treaties and understandings that concern great nations such as Russia, with the complicated race persecution and trade relations?

Again, are men of the Bryan type congenial to him, and is his theory that he finds in men like Bryan, and those whom he allows Bryan to select, the true type of the national consciousness which is to be allowed its full and public expression? That the majority is now, at last, to have its full representation through the choice of our President of the instruments with which he works?

Of course, we have begun to see only too clearly that Primaries, Conventions, Elections have filled our offices with the average man, who receives his training as he "goes along," and learns his experience at the expense of a high standard in public life and with the wasteful misusing of the taxpayer's money. Our better instruments have been largely the men chosen or appointed, as a sort of filtration of representation, to Commissions, on Boards, or to the Bench. Now, Wilson's theory is to discriminate against the expert, to appoint the same sort of man as that chosen by the electorate. The people of my generation realize, for we have seen so much change of opinion during the past sixty years, that now, and only now, for the first time, is the democratic idea so thoroughly expressed in the French Revolution, appearing as the recognized method of governmental selection.

L. M. PERKINS.

### "INTENSIVE" FARMING.

JACKSONVILLE, TEXAS.

SR,—In a letter in your November issue, a writer signing herself Catherine M. Tainst, describes the suffering and disappointment of the poor homesteaders in the cold Northwest and pertinently asks what we are going to do about this question of helping our citizens to acquire a home of their own. There is no question that this is the most important subject to be considered by the thinking public to-day.

The conditions your correspondent speaks of have been brought about more by ignorance than anything else, and if we are to accomplish any permanent good in this quarter we must strike at the root of this trouble.

First, we must all realize that farming is a science or rather a collection of applied sciences, and that even though one should devote all his life to the study of the subject there is a vast amount of knowledge for him to learn. And after learning the secrets of soil chemistry, plant breeding, and stock raising, the modern farmer without a ready market, easy of access both for buying supplies and selling his products, finds himself under a handicap sufficiently strong to neutralize all his success in the production departments. This question of markets is the one which caused the failure of these Western homesteaders, for who without capital to operate upon and situated nineteen miles from market could expect to succeed?

Now in Texas we are meeting this question by urging "intensive" rather

than extensive methods of farming, and we have thousands of prosperous families, owners of their homes and making \$1,000 or more cash every year from farms of ten to forty acres.

Our Boys' Corn Clubs and Girls' Tomato Clubs are doing a great work, one county alone having an enrolment of sixteen hundred boys under eighteen years of age who are studying all the latest methods of corn production, and this year a fifteen-year-old boy has taken the first prize Silver Trophy Cup at the Dallas State Fair for a yield of one hundred and thirty-six bushels of corn per acre.

Of course we have no free home to offer, because our best land in East Texas has all been taken up. But many large landowners sell small tracts to people who mean business without any payment down, and frequently one crop of fruit or truck pays for the land. Our Social Center movement is intended to help draw communities closer together, and by using the district schoolhouses as centers, the grown people are enabled to learn as well as the children—not only the literary branches, but all the sciences which are of so much value to development. These furnish as well a forum for debate on public questions, and we are getting results right here at home.

Sincerely,

A. S. WHITTEN.

#### “THE CRISIS IN CONSTITUTIONALISM”: A REPLY.

ATHENS, OHIO.

SIR,—The article by ex-Ambassador David Jayne Hill on the “Crisis in Constitutionalism” is as able a presentation of the case from the conservative point of view as could be written. But it seems to me a mistaken assumption to take for granted that at some particular period of a people's history a number of men can formulate a series of political principles or set up a code of morals with such far-seeing prescience that it will stand for all time. The Constitution of the United States was adopted by a relatively small proportion of the voters entitled to the franchise. It was, no doubt, the best they could do at the time. Yet the document embodies a number of compromises. What is an inalienable right? Was not the right of the people of the South to their slaves as nearly inalienable as any right could be? If many of them forfeited this right by engaging in rebellion, why were those persons deprived of them who remained loyal to the Union? Many of the estates of Great Britain are held under grants made by a sovereign centuries ago when the property of the Church was confiscated. Strictly speaking, permanent possession was not guaranteed by the English Constitution because there is no such document; but precedent has the same force. Which is the more unjust, that the public should compensate the holders of these estates, if it takes them in whole or in part, at their present value, or take them without compensation on the ground that they were virtually plunder? There will be more or less injustice if either of these alternatives is adopted. It cannot be said that a constitution is hastily changed when the voters have had opportunity to inform themselves on the proposed innovations. While there is some danger that the hasty amendment of a constitution may work injustice, there is no less danger in making amendment unduly difficult. Government has nowhere as yet passed beyond the experimental stage.

CHARLES W. SUPER.